

MINUTES

NORTHEAST MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

WEDNESDAY – JULY 2, 2003

A meeting of the Northeast Municipal Advisory Committee took place on the above date at 7:00 P.M. at Michael Ann Russell Jewish Community Center, 18900 N. E. 25th Avenue, Miami, Fl.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Marjorie Auth
Japp Donath
Kenneth H. Friedman
Glenn H. Gopman
William C. Koppel

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY ELECTED OFFICIALS AND STAFF PRESENT:

Commissioner Sally Heyman, Miami-Dade County Commissioner
Lauren Morris, Administrative Aide to Commissioner Heyman
Office of Management and Budget, UMSA Policy Analysis and Services Unit:
Sylvia Crespo-Tabak, Budget Coordinator
Jorge M. Fernandez, Budget Analyst
Police Services Bureau
Major Charles Thompson
Lieutenant James O'Donnell
Deborah Silver, Department of Solid Waste Management

1. The meeting was called to order.

2. **Commissioner Sally Heyman**

She is committed to having the people in this area have a voice in the County. The purpose of her support and Miami-Dade County Commission's backing was to give the people in this unincorporated area of North Dade a voice before a board who could take input, opinion, sentiment, insight, position on issues, take the voice of similar views, and bring it before the County in an advisory capacity. This Board cannot set policy. The Board will take the collective voice to the County Commission and the Commission will support moving ahead as the people want, i.e. annexation, incorporation, or whatever, within the limits of the law and the rules set forth under this governing body. The County will pick up the tab for the meetings. The position of the County is that they want to get out of local service. We have options, i.e. annexation, incorporation. This advisory board of our local neighbors and one to replace the vacancy of Senator Silver will take these options into consideration. The County will always exist; as far as delivery of local service though, we are going to start seeing that narrow. The position of the County is they are ultimately getting out of local government. We will be hearing facts from different Miami-Dade County department heads, uninterested third parties, as to options, possibilities, and things that are in play for this area.

3. Marjorie Auth requested that we receive information distributed at meetings three days prior to meetings. Jorge Fernandez responded that he would do that if the information were available. But since the information is quite voluminous it would be difficult and he stated that most of the information we would not necessarily go over the night of the meeting but we would take back and

use. Ms. Auth also mentioned she watched part of the tape of the County Commission workshop. Since it is a six-hour tape with a lot of information, she would like to see it put into written form since she believes it would be beneficial to everyone to help see the process in a better light. Commissioner Heyman said she would get her office to write a summary of the tape. Ms. Auth states that one of the things she learned from the tape was that tonight's meeting on the police presentation is one of the most important presentations we will hear, because the police department is 80% of the budget.

4. Ken Friedman, Chair

Ken Friedman began by attempting to clear up some misconceptions, which occur at every meeting since at each meeting there may be people who did not attend previous meetings. He allowed the last two meetings to be in the public hearing format instead of the public meeting format, trying to be democratic, trying to allow the public to give input. He specifically asked that the input be in question form. Some people made presentations instead of asking questions. The meetings deteriorated as a result of that. From now on we will conduct the meetings as we were supposed to with questions only and not comments, and the questions may be written on available index cards. If you have a question of a speaker, you will pickup an index card, and you will present that question to us. We will then ask the speaker the question. When looking at the map, it speaks for itself; the bottom-line being that for northeast Dade there could very well be nothing else left. We have never seen taxes go down and we have never seen services go up. Are we getting any better services? Or will we in the future get lesser services? Common sense tells you by this map, that we will get lesser services. It also tells you that the taxes will ultimately have to go up. We can delay the decision but ultimately something has to be done. There isn't an issue in North Dade that he hasn't been part of. He has been representing the area unofficially for over 30 years. This is a long process; we are all here to learn. At the last meeting we learned it is viable; there are more revenues than expenses. Are there enough? That comes in the second part of this process. If this were your City what would you want to improve and change? What would your wish list be? He is not promoting a city. His agenda is that he wants things improved. The neighborhood is getting splintered. We need to think as one community what is best for Northeast Dade. Would he like to be part of Aventura? Yes. Also there would not be anything wrong with it being a town, where we stay in the County, status quo, except we have a little village to serve us in our neighborhood. Except the County is not looking at that alternative; the City of Aventura is not looking at that alternative. The last choice is to look at incorporation, not to dictate it. We are here to gather information. Let's start looking positively, listening to the reports, and see how viable it is. Ultimately, we are going to decide what services we want.

5. Major Charles Thompson – Police Services Bureau

Throughout the incorporation process we would meet with him and members of his staff. One of the things we would have to do if we incorporate is to contract with Miami-Dade Police Department for a minimum of three years plus one transitional year. After we could renew a contract with Miami-Dade or move out to our own police department, which he stated would be very expensive. This evening he will give us an overview of the Miami-Dade Police Department from bottom to top; he will not talk about standing or dollars and cents. Calls for service and population will be covered at the September 10th meeting when they will give the command structure, calls for service, etc. Lieutenant O'Donnell, who is soon to become Captain O'Donnell from his staff, will give us the overview. He wanted to clarify the statement he heard about the loss of 6 officers from the area to the City of Miami Gardens;

he said this is true but it is due to the fact that we lost area, population, and calls for service. When these things go, also the manpower and resources go with them.

6. Report from Lieutenant James O'Donnell

He will give an overview of the Miami-Dade Police Department. He will give out handouts later. Disclaimer – they remain neutral in all matters of incorporation; they have no opinion one way or another. He provided MDPD (Miami-Dade Police Department) general information as follows:

- MDPD provides municipal police services and well as sheriff services. Sheriff services are Countywide and include serving writs, warrants, levies, etc.
- Total UMSA population is 1,223,571 over 1,800 square miles; budget \$382,000,000; 3,021 sworn positions plus about 1,500 non-sworn positions.
- Accredited by a national organization whose standards they meet or exceed.
- They operate nine district stations throughout Miami-Dade County. This area is known as the Intracoastal District.
- Average emergency response time is less than 5 minutes. This is the goal that they try to maintain at all times.
- Department is headed by a director (instead of a chief).
- UMSA services include: direct patrol activities, specialized patrol activities, special events planning, public housing, crime prevention, juvenile delinquency prevention programs, public corruption, enhanced 911 services, and marine and aerial support.
- Some of the specialized services provided to both municipalities and UMSA include: homicide investigations, narcotics, sexual crimes investigations, domestic crimes, economic crimes, crime scene investigations, criminal intelligence, robbery, property and evidence storage and processing, crime lab, environmental crime investigations, and tactical operations.
- Code 3 emergency – occurrence which poses an actual threat or serious injury of loss of human life, which demands swift police action – officers can go 20 miles over the posted speed limit to get there with use of lights and sirening.
- Code 2 - potential threat – also use lights and sirening and may go 10 miles over the posted speed limit.
- Calls requiring two officers – any call for service where the safety of a single officer may be in jeopardy – these include disturbances, burglar alarms, suspicious vehicle, in progress calls, anywhere where the subject can cause a threat or the subject is on the scene. Also additional officers may be required depending on the severity of the situation.
- Crime statistics – 7 year comparison starting in 1996 – crime has dropped 37% since 1996 and down 5% over last year.
- If you incorporate, the Miami-Dade police officers would wear a patch and the vehicles would be marked identifying them as being unique to your area. The City Manager would set local police priorities.

7. Major Charles Thompson addressed questions as follows:

- Police officers from Miami-Dade County will be contracted to the new municipality, the patches identify them as being in your city but they are still Miami-Dade officers.

- They will only be called out of the city in an emergency (under mutual aid) until the officer from the other area comes if your officer is closer or the other officer is detained. The same would be true in reverse.
- We lost area and police personnel when Miami Gardens incorporated. 20% of the City of Miami Gardens came out of the Intracoastal Police District. That area had the heaviest demand for calls for service in the Intracoastal District. He thinks we are ahead of the game by only losing 6 people.
- Officers assigned to our city now would belong to our city and will not routinely exit the city except for emergencies. The day-to-day routine patrol they are confined to the boundaries of our city. The mere fact that those officers are confined to our city increases our police presence.

8. Presentation by Deborah Silver, Department of Solid Waste Management

She will introduce us to the Department of Solid Waste Management and its activities and she will talk about some things that may relate to our work here. The Department of Solid Waste Management provides the following:

- Its major responsibility is the proper collection and disposal of solid waste. Carries out this responsibility through direct operations, contractual arrangements, and some regulations.
- Directs a Countywide effort to comply with state regulations concerning recycling, hazardous waste management, and the closure and maintenance of solid waste sites no longer in use.
- Provide single-family waste collection and Countywide disposal.
- Collect garbage twice weekly, small trash items once weekly, and one annual bulk waste collection.
- Perform related code enforcement functions.
- Operate system of 14 neighborhood trash and recycling centers; provide a means for residents to drop off yard trash, bulk waste, and some recycling.
- Manage the County's per site recycling contract with a private vendor.
- Currently initiating an automated waste collection service that is now operating in Biscayne Gardens.
- Manage a waste disposal system that consists of: recycling, land filling, and a waste to energy plan. Almost all cities participate in this program.
- Issue and renew operating permits to private waste haulers.
- Manage the cleanup and mowing of County owned lots.
- Litter collection project in UMSA only.
- Every residence pays the same fee, whether in an older city or new city or UMSA.
- For additional bulk trash pickups the current fee is \$18 per cubic yard.

9. Jorge Fernandez clarified the services we would have to keep even if we incorporated. Police we would have to keep for the first three years on a contracted basis for regular local patrol. Will have to keep police special services in perpetuity, the function they provide now and will continue to provide regardless. We will remain in solid waste whether we become a city or not unless of course we decide to annex which is a different story. One of the things we can do is contract for more police; we could do the same with solid waste if we feel that is an important issue, i.e. more trash pickups.

10. Ken Friedman, Chair

We are attempting to gather all the information to make a proper analysis. At the last meeting it was determined that it is viable (meaning it is a donor, not a recipient community), the question is how viable, the question is how much service at what cost? What we did not have was any of the revenue and revenue sharing information from the state; it was determined that the County would not be giving us that information. The County did give us a state book which we have shared with one of your local organizations; Rochelle has that information and hopefully she had a chance to at least begin to look it over. He will turn his copy over to the subcommittee chair on the budget issues. He had a choice between two CPA's on the Committee; since one of them is a Vice-Chair, that by default made Bill Koppel in charge. The chair asked for volunteers for the budget subcommittee, web site, or mailings; he wants to involve the community on all of our subcommittees. The Link meeting is the second Saturday at 9:00 AM, if we can get a volunteer(s).

11. Sylvia Crespo-Tabak, Budget Coordinator, stated this process will get very dull and boring before it is through. The Committee is required to work in the Sunshine. They will have to have discussions in front of the public in order to do their work. Her job and Jorge's job is to facilitate the process. They get the meeting rooms for us, advertise the meetings, and get information from other County departments. They do not do the work for us. Someone on the Committee is going to have to contact the state, give them the boundaries, give them the population and they will assist us in putting together state revenue sharing numbers. These revenues do not go through the County. She recommends that we wait until we have set boundaries to contact the state. She wanted to share with us that this is a very slow moving and conscientious process and getting the information we need is very complicated. She will try to send the MAC members as much information in advance as they can.

12. Glen Gopman would like to have the minutes in advance for future meetings. Chair asked for any amendments to the minutes; there were none.

Motion by Ken Friedman to approve the minutes, motion seconded.
Motion Carried

13. Ken Friedman reviewed the subcommittees which are as follows: budget committee under Bill Koppel; pros and cons of annexation and incorporation – there are already several volunteers for this committee; demographics committee. He asked for anyone who would like to get involved in these subcommittees. He will be contacting all the new cities, such as The Falls, Doral, Palmetto Bay, Miami Gardens, Pinecrest, that have gone through the MACs; he will ask them what subcommittees they had; he will ask them what questions they asked of the state; he will ask them what issues came up from the different departments; so that we can learn from people who have already gone through the process. Probably two meetings from now he will have speakers from all of those groups present to share their experiences with us.

14. Marjorie Auth mentioned that at the last meeting an issue was brought up that we were not getting enough information because we didn't know what to ask for. She wants to know if there is a master list of all of the items other MAC communities have requested so we can review this list and decide what we want to ask for. Jorge Fernandez stated that one of the things he passed out tonight were the final reports for Miami Gardens and Doral. These reports should give us a good

idea of what they asked for. He also has specific correspondence in terms of the MAC and things they have asked for. Jorge will e-mail these to the Committee members.

15. Ken spoke about the subject of incorporation pros and cons. The major problem we have is that we have 200 people out of a theoretical 16,000 people, which is not indicative of the community. The community after 3 meetings still doesn't know about this process. In addition to the subcommittee pros and cons of annexation, we also want to try to get the word out to the 16,000 people. We have to have an ad-hoc committee working with us to create flyers and create sub-meetings to get the word out to the neighborhood because it is not productive to hear from the same people at every meeting. We want to hear from everybody so we will have a better feel for this whole process. Anyone who wants to work on that committee let him know. We must reach out to the community.
16. Glen Gopman wanted to have a discussion about the quality of the information we get from the County. Last meeting was a financial presentation which showed we were a donor community with a net surplus of about \$1,300,000. Never was it mentioned that there was this mitigation factor that's never been less 40% that the County would be taking from us which we should have been told. Never do you really tell us of all of the other sources of revenue, although you mention that you get other state money; that only came out after there was some questioning about it. So the quality of information that we are getting from the County is deficient.
17. Sylvia Crespo-Tabak begs to differ. She said that the problem that we are having here is that we want in our second meeting information that will be available in our 17th meeting when it starts to make some sense. What the County gave us at the first meeting was an estimated impact of what this area's departure will have on the UMSA budget. That is what is important to the County because the County is going to lose one point some million dollars that it gets from this community, and spends elsewhere, where the revenues are not as high as the cost of the services. This is a very long process. The book that they gave us which is on-line tells us all about state revenues and the formulas behind them. Before it is all over we will be looking at budgets from other communities so that we can take a look at whether there are similarities. Meetings 11 through 18 are called the negotiation stage which is when we will be talking about the conditions under which we are going to incorporate. We will talk about mitigation much later in the process.
18. Glen Gopman wanted to state for the record that there are certain weaknesses in the data, he would like us to know that as we are walking through the reports that there is certain information that we should be exploring elsewhere.
19. The next meeting is scheduled for July 23, 2003 at this location. Mr. Koppel will not be present.
20. The Committee members discussed the boundaries. The map had been divided into 4 areas. Glen Gopman mentioned that the difference in the boundaries that we want to look at is that the decision for incorporation as a separate city and the decision for annexation into a neighboring city might be two different boundary scenarios. He thinks we should come up with some boundary scenarios that we can stay with. The boundaries were left at status quo for this meeting.
21. Japp Donath would like to see some of the business owners from the area brought in to the meetings. Marjorie Auth would like to have building inform us if any new business permits are in

process. Sylvia Crespo-Tabak said she would ask building and zoning to tailor their presentations as they can to present permit and zoning issues that affect growth.

22. The Chair opened up the meeting to questions from the public attendees.

23.

Motion by Glen Gopman that the lower area 2, Ojus, become area 5; motion seconded.
Motion Carried

24.

Motion by Ken Friedman to correct the minutes to reflect that area 1 is to include the area North of 199 Street inclusive (not North of 203rd Street).
Motion Carried

25. Ken Friedman explained that this is a municipal advisory committee, not an annexation committee. However, there are many people in this room who are working on a parallel to this; meaning that we are also looking at the idea of being part of an existing city. So while these meetings are going on that process hopefully is being opened also and is being looked at, but it is not part of the agenda per se. But when they talk about the boundaries that is what they are getting at. So if they carve out certain boundaries and study the numbers for those boundaries they can give it to the applicable cities and the cities can see whether it is good or bad for them. That is the logic behind it.

26. Glen Gopman thinks as a Committee we need to be paying a little more attention to the boundaries and what they really mean and we can't just allow the people who have come in to witness our debate to direct where these boundaries are. We need to do something responsible here and he thinks originally we started by trying to be all-inclusive. Now we are carving up the neighborhoods and he thinks we need to understand what that means.

27. Sylvia Crespo-Tabak stated that Commissioner Ferguson would have to write the Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners a letter authorizing our MAC to include property in her district in our study.

28. Meeting was adjourned.

Roslyn B. Weisblum
Recording Secretary